

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A blending station apparatus, comprising:

a blending container;

a blending location sized to receive the blending container;

a foodstuffs supply line carrying a foodstuffs, the foodstuffs supply line provided at the blending location to selectively and automatically introduce the foodstuffs into the blending container upon request;

a blending device ~~mounted to the blending station apparatus~~ at the blending location to blend the foodstuffs introduced into the blending container;

a pump operatively coupled to the foodstuffs supply line to introduce the foodstuffs into the blending container;

a single, self-contained, stand-alone preparation and processing station to incorporate the blending container, the blending location, the foodstuffs supply line, the blending device, and the pump:

Claim 2 (original) A blending station apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an ice supply to directly and automatically introduce ice into the blending container upon request.

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (original) A blending station apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the foodstuffs comprises a fruit flavored foodstuffs.

Claim 5 (original) A blending station apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the foodstuffs comprises a nutritional supplement.

Claim 6 (original) A blending station apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the foodstuffs comprises a coffee-flavored foodstuffs.

Claim 7 (currently amended) A blending station apparatus, comprising:

a blending container;

a blending location sized to receive the blending container;

a foodstuffs supply line carrying a foodstuffs, the foodstuffs supply line provided at the blending location to selectively and automatically introduce the foodstuffs into the blending container upon request;

a blending device ~~mounted to the blending station apparatus~~ at the blending location to blend the foodstuffs introduced into the blending container;

a mechanical refrigeration system to maintain the foodstuffs supply line refrigerated;

a single, self-contained stand-alone preparation and processing station to incorporate the blending container, the blending location, the foodstuffs supply line, the blending device, and the mechanical refrigeration system.

Claim 8 (currently amended) A blending station apparatus, comprising:

a blending container;

a blending location sized to receive the blending container;

a foodstuffs supply line carrying a foodstuffs, the foodstuffs supply line provided at the blending location to selectively and automatically introduce the foodstuffs into the blending container upon request;

a blending device ~~mounted to the blending station apparatus~~ at the blending location to blend the foodstuffs introduced into the blending container;

a cleaning location sized to receive the blending container;

a cleaning liquid supply line provided at the cleaning location to automatically clean the blending container when placed within the cleaning location.

Claim 9 (original) A blending station apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising at least two foodstuffs supply lines.

Claim 10 (original) A blending station apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising six foodstuffs supply lines.

Claim 11 (currently amended) A blending station apparatus, comprising:

- a blending container;
- a blending location sized to receive the blending container;
- a foodstuffs supply line carrying a foodstuffs, the foodstuffs supply line provided at the blending location to selectively and automatically introduce the foodstuffs into the blending container upon request;
- a blending device ~~mounted to the blending station apparatus~~ at the blending location to blend the foodstuffs introduced into the blending container;
- a peristaltic pump operatively coupled to the foodstuffs supply line to directly and automatically introduce one or more of the foodstuffs into the blending container upon request.

Claim 12 (original) A blending station apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a control panel and an information processor operatively coupled to the control panel to input data into the blending station apparatus to automatically prepare a beverage.

Claims 13-40 (canceled).

Claim 41 (currently amended) A blending station apparatus, comprising:

- a blending container;
- a blending location sized to receive the blending container;
- a refrigerated foodstuffs supply line disposed within a refrigerated cabinet carrying a foodstuffs, the refrigerated foodstuffs supply line provided at the blending location to selectively and automatically introduce the foodstuffs into the blending container upon request;
- a blending device ~~mounted to the blending station apparatus~~ at the blending location to blend the foodstuffs introduced into the blending container;
- a single, self-contained, standalone preparation and processing station to incorporate the blending container, the blending location, the refrigerated foodstuffs supply line, and the blending device.

Claim 42 (currently amended) A blending station apparatus, comprising:

- a blending container;
- a blending location sized to receive the blending container;
- a foodstuffs supply container disposed within the blending station;
- a foodstuffs supply line extending between the foodstuffs supply container and the blending container;
- a blending device ~~mounted to the blending station apparatus~~ at the blending location to blend the foodstuffs introduced into the blending container;
- a pump operatively coupled to the foodstuffs supply line to pump the foodstuffs into the blending container from the foodstuffs supply container.

Claim 43 (new) A blending station apparatus, comprising:

a blending container;

a blending location sized to receive the blending container;

a foodstuffs supply line for carrying foodstuffs, the foodstuffs supply line provided at the blending location to selectively and automatically introduce the foodstuffs into the blending container upon request;

a blending device at the blending location to blend the foodstuffs introduced into the blending container;

an ice hopper for introducing ice into the blending container;

a refrigeration system separate of the ice hopper to maintain the foodstuffs supply line refrigerated;

a single, self-contained stand-alone preparation and processing station to incorporate the blending container, the blending location, the foodstuffs supply line, the blending device, and the refrigeration system.

Claim 44 (new) A blending station apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a single, self-contained stand-alone preparation and processing station incorporating the blending container, the blending location, the foodstuffs supply line, the blending device, the cleaning location, and the cleaning liquid supply line.